

# April

Magic Lantern Society  
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2019



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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*A Few of the Announcement Slides  
From the Embassy Theatre (Fort Wayne, Indiana)*

Compiled by Thomas and Penelope Mathiesen

[http://fwembassytheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Embassy\\_Slides\\_Cat.pdf](http://fwembassytheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Embassy_Slides_Cat.pdf)

## Phantasmagoria Rises Again

By Terry Borton

Last month new members Joel Schlemowitz and Dawn Elliott gave a very successful show, featuring the Phantasmagoria, at Boscobel, an historic house on the Hudson River. The show—more an illustrated lecture about the magic lantern than a show—played to a sold out and enthusiastic crowd, and featured Joel’s lecture about the history of the lantern, especially the Phantasmagoria, and demonstrations of Phantasmagoria slides and

techniques. The slides were all copies, hand-made and hand-painted by Joel. Dawn handled the “off camera” logistics, and music was provided by two assistants who handled original 78s and a player. A second act focused on the 19th century, and featured dissolves, using side-by-side lanterns, and a home-made “finger” dissolver. A collection of slip slides, shown with little



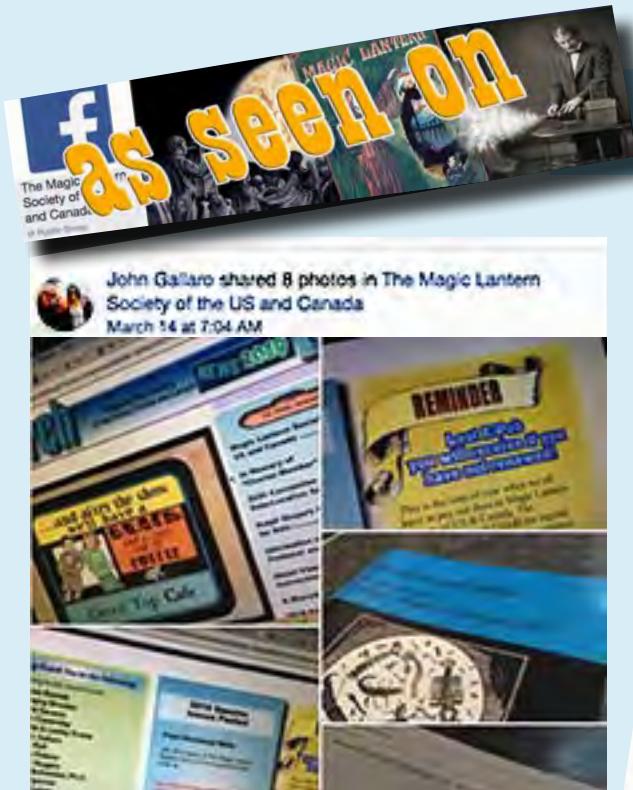
**Dawn Elliott and Joe Schlemowitz with their home-made dissolver.**

commentary, got lots of laughs. In fact, there were more laughs during the presentation than we heard a week earlier when Debbie and I attended a Noel Coward comedy performed by professionals.

Joel is a professor of experimental film at the New School in New York (<https://vimeo.com/schlemowitz>), and has been collecting for some years. Dawn is an avid historical re-enactor of the Revolutionary War period, assistant curator at the Museum Village in NY, and recent winner of an award for her contributions to Hudson Valley history education. (<https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2018/02/21/new-paltz-native-dawn-elliott-is-this-years-recipient-of-the-martha-washington-woman-of-history-award>)

award) She saw one of The American Magic Lantern Theater’s shows 10 years ago, became fascinated, purchased a children’s lantern, and has been giving shows to children with it ever since.

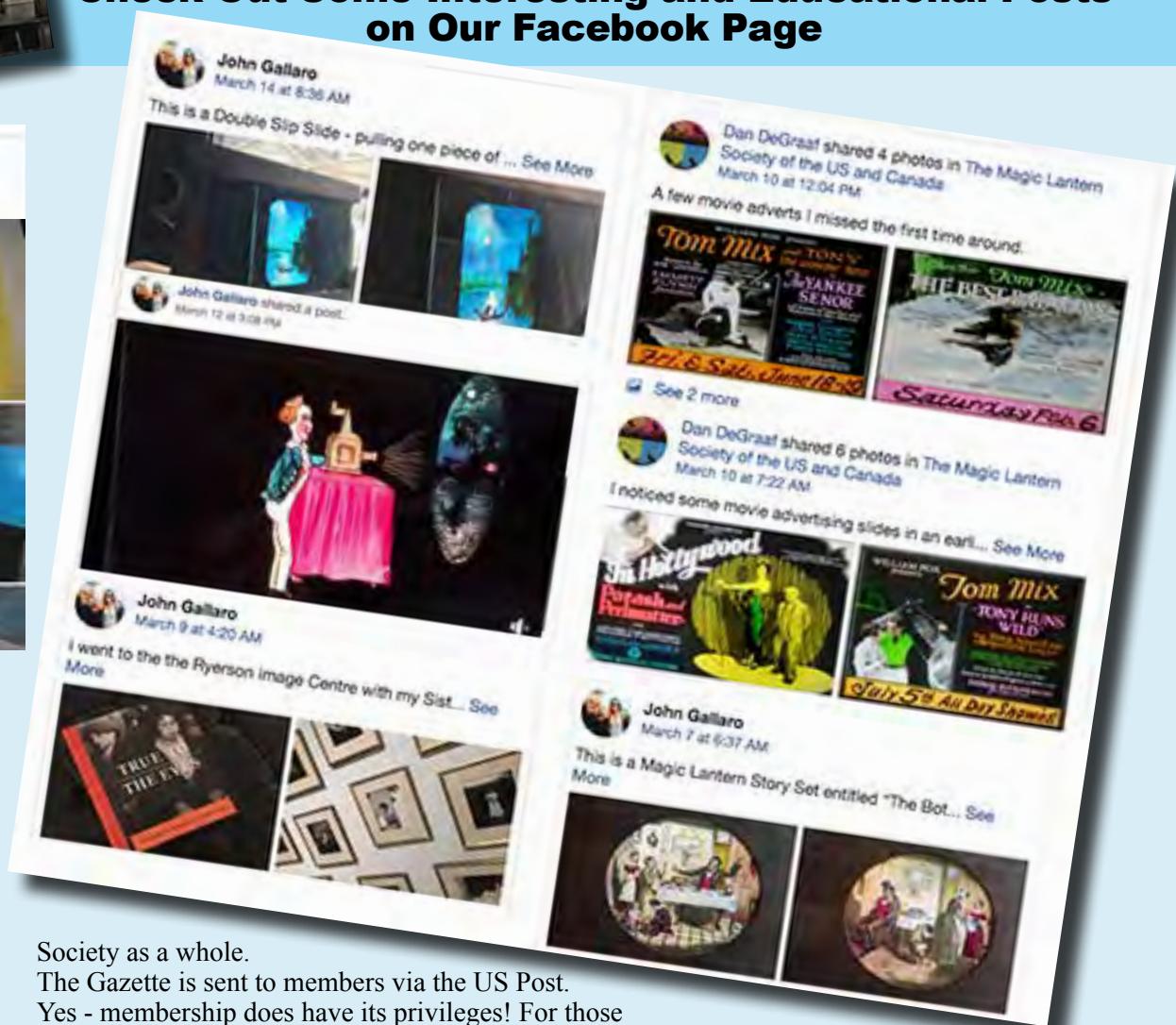
Joel and Dawn are serious about their performing, are working to improve their presentation, and have already booked two shows for next year.



Hi All,

Just a quick reminder about the advantages of being a member of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada - first there is the monthly ePublication that is produced by Larry Cederblom (a big shout out to Larry for the ePub). You receive it through your email and it contains all kinds of interesting stuff such as queries and events. Everyone is invited to participate and share. Secondly, there is The Magic Lantern Gazette - produced and edited by Kentwood Wells (again a big shout out to Kentwood). The Magic Lantern Gazette is a journal of research - a great publication for academics and researchers who want to share their Magic Lantern related field of studies with the

## Check Out Some Interesting and Educational Posts on Our Facebook Page



Society as a whole.

The Gazette is sent to members via the US Post. Yes - membership does have its privileges! For those who are interested about finding out more about this, please contact David Evans at [secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org](mailto:secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/407347156096502/>



## From John Gallaro

Hi David,  
I have questions for you in regards to a Lantern Slide that I posted yesterday on both the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada FB Public page and on the Montreal Vintage Gallery FB page - two Facebook groups that I belong to. The Slide image was a hand painted view of the St. Lawrence River with a Bridge and a city shoreline. Being a Montrealer by birth, I assumed that it was a view of the Great Victoria Bridge which was built in 1859. The Great Victoria Bridge was described as the 8th Wonder of the World when it was built - Queen Victoria herself was invited to inaugurate the Bridge but she sent the Prince of Wales in her place.

After I posted the Slide on the Montreal Vintage Gallery page I was inundated with negative comments from people that took great umbrage with the Slide and my description of it - comments such as - "this is not Montreal", "where is Mount Royal", "the Victoria Bridge was a Tube construction rail Bridge across the River", "it can't be the Victoria Bridge" - I realized that comments from people you don't know can be cutting - such is the internet - we say things in such a way online that we would never say to their face! As I thought about the attacks, I looked at the Slide again - this time I flipped it - with the Bridge on the left hand side of the Slide it would make more sense that Mount Royal would not be in the background. I then set out to find reference materials such as lithographic prints from the period that may



have been used by the Slide Painter. I found a print online of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, Victoria Bridge, over the river St. Lawrence at Montreal HODGES, James (1814-1879). - S. RUSSEL (artist) Published by John Weale, 1860. It seems to be a possible reference point for the Painter - the position of the Island (St. Helen's Island) next to the Bridge - and the lumber raft which can be seen on both the Slide and Print. It wasn't a perfect reference though - the print clearly shows a Tube or tunnel with the train coming out at the end of the Tunnel whereas on the Slide the Train was painted so that it was completely visible in the middle of the Bridge. So I have a few questions that you or other Society members may be able to answer.

- Did Slide Painters take liberties when they painted world views?

From David Evans: They would have painted what they thought they saw - obviously incorrectly in this case! The painter painted a conventional bridge, not unreasonable as he most likely had never been to Canada.

## Accuracy of Painted Slide Images

- I assume they would have used reference materials rather than personal impressions from visiting the locations that they painted - your thoughts on this??

From David Evans: Undoubtedly they did - the cost of travel and the time it took back then would have been prohibitive.

- The description that is written in pencil on the slide may be wrong - but it seems improbable that someone would do this intentionally - I purchased the slide on eBay from a Seller in the UK a few years ago - I assumed the written description was right - your thoughts on this?

From David Evans: The writing looks original. As you say, unlikely it would have been done to cause confusion.

- Do we know who these Slide Painters were? Has anyone done research on this? Did the various Slide Painters have styles that make identification possible? Did they work for the Opticians and Magic Lantern sellers? I have seen catalogue listings of Slip Slides, etc. - are there listings of these painted world views?

From David Evans: We seldom know the identities of the slide painters, unless they were famous. There may well be research happening in this field - let us hope that something does happen. Yes, styles are certainly discernible, but hard to pin them down to a specific artist. Most of the big supply houses published catalogues with lists of slides available for purchase. It is believed they were mostly freelance, most probably not employed by the sellers, except for the big ones, such as Carpenter & Westley

*continued next page*

## Accuracy of Painted Slide Images continued

and Hughes. Try [https://www.luikerwaal.com/indexx\\_uk.htm](https://www.luikerwaal.com/indexx_uk.htm) where some of the catalogues are listed.

I will send you some reference photos in another email. They will include:

- the slide as I first posted it
- the flipped slide
- a close up of the written description on the slide
- a picture of the lithographic print that I found online

Thanks - a most interesting question. Maybe others will have comments.

Hopefully someone will be able to weigh in on this - perhaps someone in the UK where I believe the Slide was made.

Regards,  
John Gallaro



### From John Gallaro

junglearrow@sympatico.ca

Hi David,

Thank you for your answers - it helps me understand the ways these slides were made. The Montreal Vintage Gallery posts primarily photographs - I guess they don't deal in Magic Lantern Slide very often - it doesn't help that I posted the image in reverse. Oh well - you can't please all of the people all of the time!

Regards,  
John



Another reference pictures - the Great Victoria Bridge

This one has a sail boat like the slide.

## More from Facebook Page



### From Philip Foss

Currently attempting to revive a 1914 Victor Animatograph Biunial magic lantern.

This unit came with one 9" long 500 watt Mazda tube.(pictured below)

This bulb extends all the way up into the chimney. That can't be correct ?

Anybody else have one of these lanterns ?



If you would like to add additional information click here  
**LARRY**



Paramount is the only major studio in the United States not to immediately follow the craze of CinemaScope and to offer in 1954 another Wide Screen system, said VistaVision, presented April 27, 1954 in New York, on the huge screen (20 m base 11 m high) from Radio City Music Hall. When shooting, the scrolling of the negative film is horizontal; the mechanism moves the film eight perforations instead of four. An image of excellent definition is obtained, 37.4 mm wide and 25.3 mm high.

In the beginning, we use a modified Mitchell camera lying horizontally, then Mitchell delivers a specially crafted VistaVision camera for Paramount. As for the VistaVision soundtrack, it is a stereophonic dimensional sound read by Perspecta Sound. And it is the Technicolor laboratories that are in charge of the colors. A horizontally scrolling Century projector, designed for very rare productions such as the

## THE VISTAVISION PROCESS

**Friday, April 5th, 2.30 pm**

Illustrated lecture by Jean-Pierre Verscheure with projections of extracts of rare original copies and demonstration / inauguration of Perspecta Sound installed in Henri Langlois Hall

**Conservatoire des techniques,  
French Cinematheque, 51 rue de  
Bercy Paris 12th**



movie Paramount Strategic Air Command (1955), has been used exceptionally in New York, London and Paris. However, the horizontal projection is the best way to appreciate the beauty of the native images obtained in the same way: "The quality is incomparable", notes the critic André Bazin who saw the show at the Paramount cinema in Paris in June 1954, on a screen of 12.50 meters base. Alfred Hitchcock will shoot several films in VistaVision for the Paramount: To Catch a Thief (1955), The Trouble with Harry (1955), The Man Who Knew

Too Much (1956), and Cecil B. DeMille achieves with this system the blockbuster The Ten Commandments (1956).

Jean-Pierre Verscheure is an honorary professor at INSAS in Brussels, member of the Scientific Council of the Conservatoire des Techniques and several international associations. A historian of cinematographic

techniques, he runs a sound restoration center, Cinevolution, in which more than seventy-five sound systems are operational.

Next lecture: May 3, 2:30 pm, IN SEARCH OF THE LOST COLOR: THE KELLER-DORIAN-BERTHON PROCESS ON LENTICULAR FILM, Lecture by François Ede

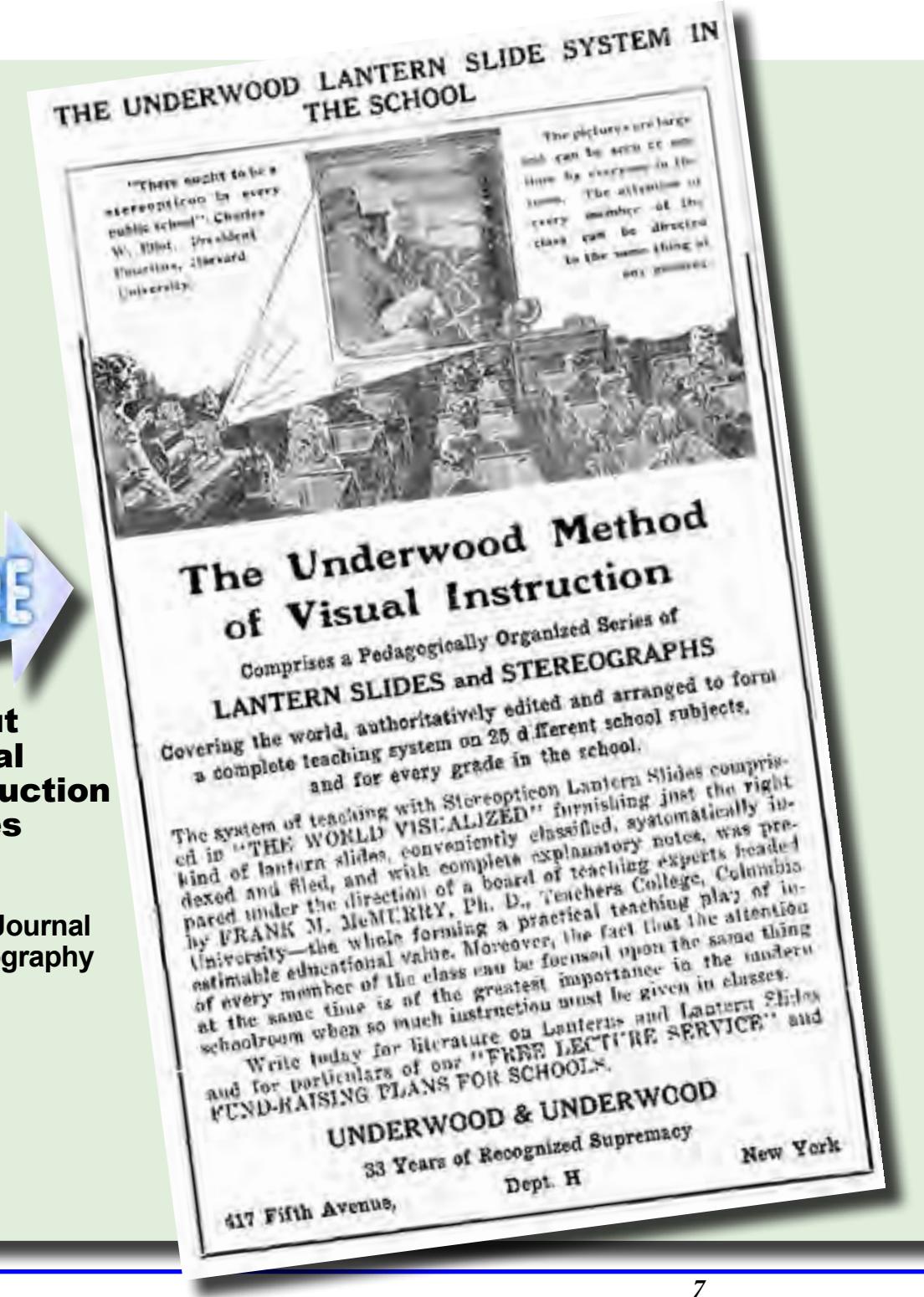
Laurent Mannoni  
Scientific Director  
of Heritage and the  
Conservatoire des  
techniques  
French Cinematheque  
40 avenue des Terroirs  
de France  
75611 Paris cedex 12  
Such. : 01 44 73 57 41  
Mobile: 06 23 91 46 05  
<http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/catalogues/appareils/collection.htm>



MORE

## About Visual Instruction Slides

From Journal of Geography  
1917



## More from Facebook Page

### Projecting Children's Slides



Philip Foss

March 24 at 4:24 PM

8' wide projection of small E&P glass slides.



Philip Foss and 16 others

6 Comments Seen by 80

### Larry Rakow

Grossly overlooked and under appreciated, these small decal slides offer some great imagery.

### Philip Foss

Larry—I agree, but my 500 watt bulb heats 'em up quickly so I can't leave them alone too long !

### John Gallaro

Looks magical!

## Open Switch (1926)

From David Donaldson

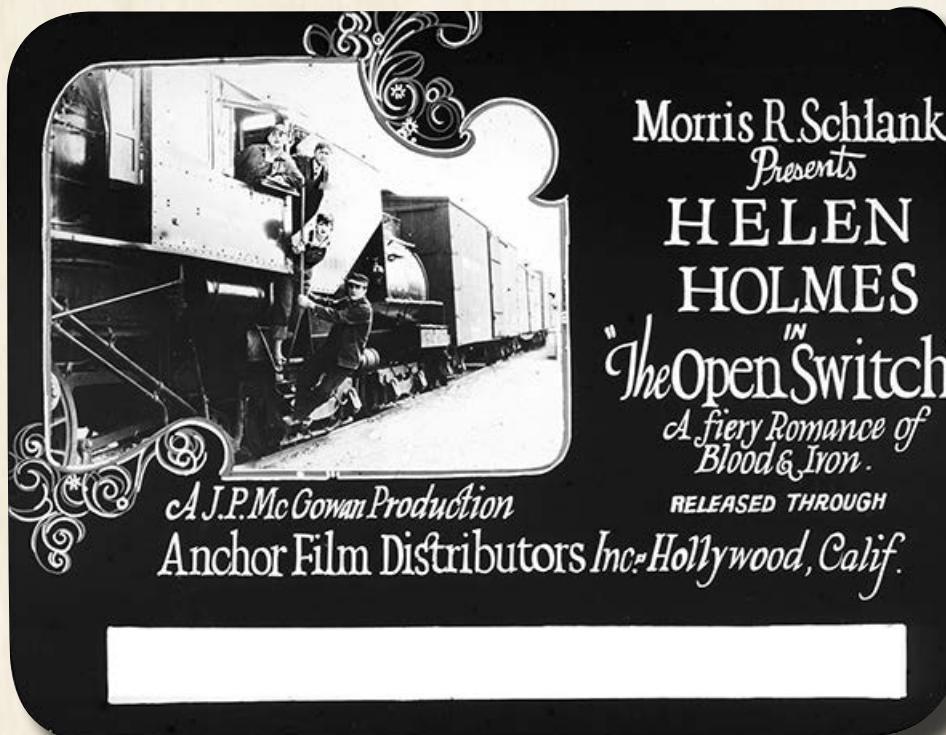
filmart@dodo.com.au

The coming attraction slide for The Open Switch (1926) was not one of those eBay cheapies! David Donaldson loves it for its elaborate (hand-made?) lettering and decoration AND for the dynamic quality of the photograph. The actual film was a low-budgeter but they put heart into promoting it!

J.P. McGowan was a prolific actor and director from 1909 to 1939, a pioneer of Hollywood for Kalem, the husband for a time of his star

Helen Holmes and a long-serving executive secretary for the Screen Directors' Guild.

McGowan was born in 1880 at the railroad town of Terowie, South Australia, where David has shown this slide and others on his Beseler Slide King (not strictly a magic lantern but a magnificent beast). A South Australian himself, David seeks both early railroad and later western coming attraction slides, and any other McGowaniana. mcgowansociety@dodo.com.au .



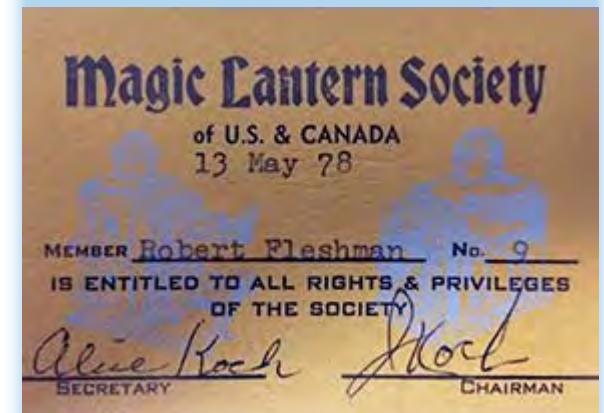
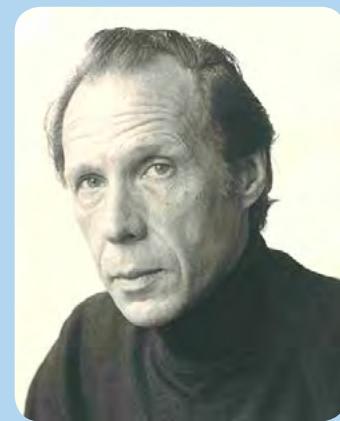
More About

Information

Request

## on BOB FLESHMAN

Following Steve Barnes request for information regarding Bob Fleshman, whose amazing collection members toured at the Nims Center in New Orleans at the 2016 Convention, Steve provided an image of Bob's membership card. Member #9 in 1978!



## Illustrated Catalog of slides of the Russian Empire

### From David Evans

Sergey Gavrilenko has just put a copy of Volume One of his Russian slide catalogue on eBay. I contacted him about some outstanding orders from members and received the following response:

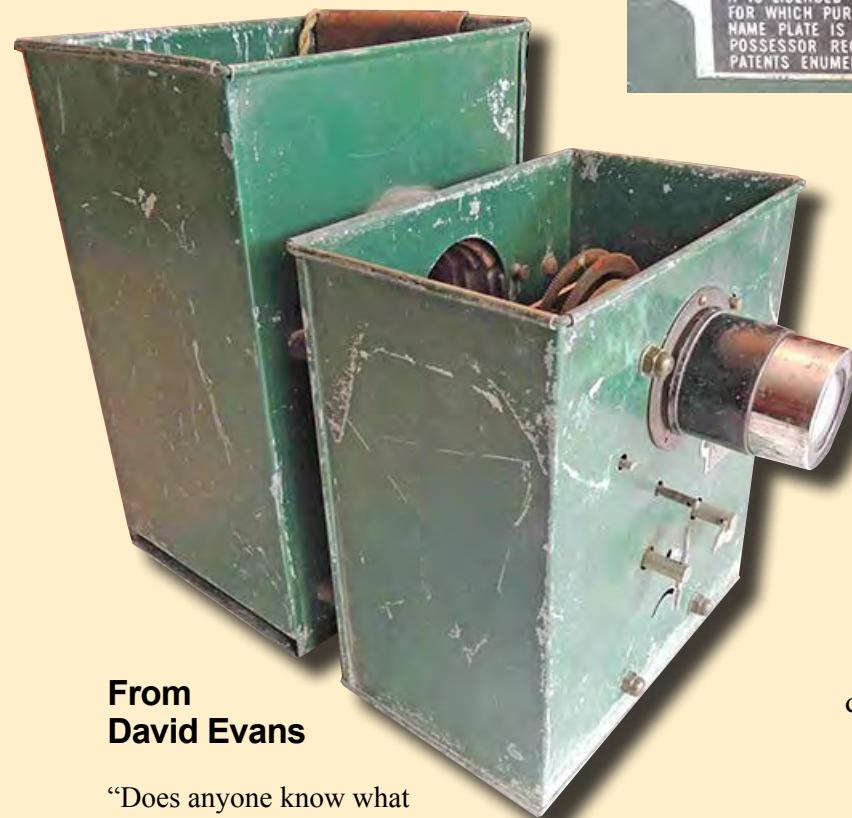
### From Sergey Gavrilenko

"Hello! Only two weeks ago I returned from military operations in the east of our country. I was called by our state and was forced to postpone all affairs! I apologize for the big delay. I have all the addresses and orders, and soon I will continue to print and send books! The conference did not take place due to lack of funding from the state and an insufficient number of participants.

Now in the presence of several copies of the first volume of this directory. Subsequent books begin to print next week. Best regards, Sergey.



## Kei-Lac Advertising Projector



From  
David Evans

"Does anyone know what covers this had originally? It is a Kei-Lac cinema advertising projector clock, used to put the time and an automatically changing ad on the screen, presumably small and in a corner. The



front part probably just had a flat cover, but the lamp housing at the back should have some sort of ventilation. In case you

think you have seen this item before, you probably have, on Pat Kulaga's eBay listing. If you can help, thanks!"

Regards

David  
dwinwooddevans@aol.com

## Live Theater – A 19th Century Magic Lantern Show “Once in a Blue Moon”

From John Schroeder and Austin Sharpe

**18 May 2019**

Our first performance was at the IIAH meeting on 22 March 2018. It will next be performed at the EAIA (Early American Industries Association) annual meeting (<https://eaiainfo.org/news-events/annual-meetings/>) on

**Saturday 18 May 2019.**  
The show “Once in a Blue Moon”

will use our unique collection of 19th century astronomical magic lantern slides and have performers playing prominent astronomers Edmond Halley and Caroline Herschel, and showman and author L. Frank Baum. It will be held at the Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center, 219 Littleton, Road, Westford, MA 01886

Please consult the EAIA website if you are interested in attending.

<https://www.iiah-usa.org/>



The IIAH encourages open houses in association with other organizations. The general public is invited to all these events. The next scheduled event is on 19 May 2019 with the EAIA. We are also planning one this summer with the Southern New England Chapter for Industrial Archeology (SNEC-SIA). We will be delighted to host a New England Meeting of MLS of US and Canada members this Summer/Fall. Please contact [info@iiah-usa.org](mailto:info@iiah-usa.org) if there is an interest. We provide a lunch including our famous hot dogs and beans; and Hit-Miss ice cream.



The Institute for Industrial Art and History (IIAH) is located at 9 Village Way, North Andover, MA 01845. The museum was incorporated in 2016 and has existed in one guise or another for 25 years. Please take a virtual tour of the IIAH on our website [www.IIAH-usa.org](http://www.IIAH-usa.org); [info@iiah-usa.org](mailto:info@iiah-usa.org). It is a 501 C3 exempt museum.

Our collection includes an archive of over 6500 imagery objects: approximately 3000 Magic Lantern Slides; 1500 stereo view cards; 1500 film strip images; and numerous photographs painting and prints. The MLS are related to our goal of preserving our scientific and industrial engineering heritage. We also have a complete Keystone 600 set of MLS, stereo view cards, and annotation cards in their original wooden cabinet



shown below on the left. Most of the imagery has been digitized using high resolution flat bed scanners.

# COMING SOON

## A View From the Inside Out

From Ryan Shepard



### From April 1 - 3,

Georgetown students in Art & Art History photography classes will transform the Lauinger Library's Murray Room into a camera obscura, from Latin, meaning, "dark room." Once installed, the view over the Potomac, Key Bridge, the Rosslyn skyline and beyond, will project – upside-down and backward – over the walls, ceiling, and people in the room.

The camera obscura has a rich history that spans centuries and multiple cultures. Vermeer used them as part of his painting process. Scientists have used them to observe eclipses. The contemporary artist Abelardo Morell is famous for his camera obscura images taken around the world.

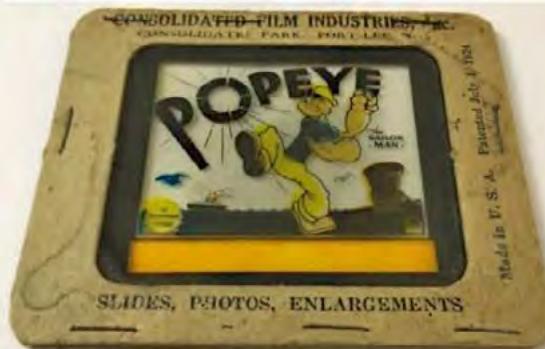
<https://www.library.georgetown.edu/news/view-inside-out>

As Seen On



*Very pricey, hope there is a guarantee that they didn't make hundreds of copies for other theatres!*

RARE vintage 1930s POPEYE GLASS PROJECTOR SLIDE film movie theater magic lantern



Price: **US \$500.00**  
\$42 for 12 months \*

**Buy It Now**

Shipping: **\$12.66** Standard Shipping | See details  
Item location: Trenton, New Jersey, United States

# COMING SOON

*Join us if you're in the neighborhood!*

Group NW will represent the Magic Lantern Society at the Puget Sound Photographic Collector Society Annual Sale, Swap and Show in Kent, WA

**April 13, 2019**

Kent Commons - 525 4th Ave. North  
Kent, WA.

8:30 am: Early admission buyers may enter -  
Early admission: \$15.00

10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Open to the general public - General Admission: \$5.00

**Magic Lantern Society display table complete with slides, NW slide images and hand outs.**



**A Big Thank You to the following:**

contributing to this months issue.

**Terry Borton  
David Donaldson  
David Evans  
Philip Foss  
John Gallaro  
Laurent Mannoni  
John Schroeder  
Austin Sharpe  
Ryan Shepard**

**Now it's your turn to share!**

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

**E-mail Larry**



**1920 Coming Attraction**

**Welcome New Member**

**Margo Buelens-Terryn**

Boekenberglei 178  
Deurne  
Antwerpen 2100  
Belgium

Ph: (047) 3347752  
E: margo\_buelens-terryn@hotmail.com

PhD Candidate - part of the  
B-Magic project.

**Gervaise Lacasse**

8 rue Lynch  
Lac Brome QC  
J0E 1V0  
Canada

E: germain.lacasse@umontreal.ca

Retired film historian at University of  
Montreal

**Just a Reminder**



**Save the Date!!!**

*The 2020 Convention of the Magic  
Lantern Society will be held*

**June 11-14, 2020  
in Cleveland, Ohio**

**More  
information  
coming in  
future E-pubs**